



Office of the Mayor

MEDIA RELEASE

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MICHIGAN ST. CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED

SOUTH BEND, In. – The city of South Bend has announced that the reconstruction and paving of S. Michigan St., from Chippewa Ave. to the U.S. 31 Bypass has been completed and the road and intersections are now open to all traffic. Work on infrastructure improvements was planned for three phases, starting on Tuesday, May 1 and continuing through October 31, 2007. Final painting and striping and sidewalk installation will be completed as the weather allows and additional ornamental details and landscaping will be completed in the spring.

“The exciting success of the City’s south side development has significantly increased traffic flow along Michigan, Ireland, and Chippewa,” said Mayor Luecke. “This reconstruction effort ensures that economic progress goes hand in hand with important driver and pedestrian safety.” The Mayor also recognized the superior work of the project contractors – Walsh & Kelly, Inc. and Youngs Excavating, Inc. who kept the construction on track and were very proactive in keeping businesses and property owners updated on progress and important schedule information.

According to City Engineer, Carl Littrell, the reconstruction project accomplishes a number of goals. “The \$2.99 million project not only provides a strong, renewed driving surface,” said Littrell, “it also reduces congestion at the intersection of Ireland and Michigan and provides safer left turns into driveways at homes and businesses by creating a designated center left turn lane between Ireland and Chippewa.”

The new road also added and extended curbs and sidewalks in order to increase pedestrian mobility and safety. At the same time, the combined sewer and storm water collection system was separated; eliminating puddles along many business entrances and contributing to the environmental protection of the St. Joseph River and area streams.

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The following improvements have been made:

Safety and efficiency:

- Dual left turn lanes permit safe turns in shorter cycle time at Ireland intersection.
- Center left turn lane allows safer queuing for access to businesses and homes.
- LED bulbs and battery backup for uninterrupted power supply at signal lights maintained.

Access:

- Shortened median barrier allows left turn access to more businesses near the Ireland intersection.
- All driveway approaches replaced with durable concrete pavements.

Pedestrian Walk-ability:

- Curb and Sidewalks placed on both sides of Michigan Street.

Drainage:

- Drainage system installed and separated from combined sewer system; eliminates puddles that once formed at substandard approaches.
- Drainage system eliminates “ponding” on road that can be a traffic hazard.

“The road improvement project was completed during this year’s construction season, leaving Michigan Street and Ireland Road open to traffic and accessible to all businesses at all times,” stated Mayor Luecke. “The new roads are now safer for both traffic and pedestrians, smarter in power efficiency and drainage systems, and simpler in traffic access to business on both sides of S. Michigan St. With this reconstruction, we continue to improve the greater South Bend area.”